

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, USIRJC

SUBJECT: JOINT STUDY RECOMMENDED BY S, T AND E OF  
NEED FOR COUNSELING, ORIENTATION AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
TRAINING FOR IRANIAN STUDENTS COMING TO U.S.

BEGIN SUMMARY: REQUEST POST CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE GOI  
OFFICIALS AND EXCHANGE VIEWS TO DETERMINE HOW AND WHEN THEY  
WOULD LIKE JOINT STUDY IMPLEMENTED, WHICH S, T AND E RECOM-  
MENDED BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE JUNE 1977 BY A TEAM OF TWO RE-  
PRESENTATIVES FROM EACH COUNTRY. FOLLOWING ARE OUR VIEWS,  
ON WHIC; WE WELCOME POST'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS PRIOR  
TO CONSULTATION WITH GOI. END SUMMARY.

1. WE SUGGEST TWO TEAM MEMBERS, ONE IRANIAN, AND ONE AMER-  
ICAN, BE TEFL EXPERTS; THE OTHER TWO EXPERTS ON ORIENTATION  
AND COUNSELING. ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPONENT IS DIFFERENT  
FROM AND POSSIOLY A MORE COMPLICATED PROBLEM THAN COUNSEL-  
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ING AND ORIENTATION. ACQUISITION OF LANGUAGE AT THE LEVEL

REQUIRED FOR STUDY ABROAD REQUIRES A FAR GREATER INVESTMENT OF TIME AND SUSTAINED EFFORT BY THE STUDENT AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT AND IT REQUIRES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KIND OF FACILITY AND PROGRAM THAN GOOD COUNSELING AND ORIENTATION PROGRAMS WILL REQUIRE.

2. TEFL EXPERTS COULD WORK SEPARATELY BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY AND IN CONSULTATION WITH O AND C EXPERTS. REPORT WOULD COVER BOTH SUBJECTS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT EXISTING FACILITIES IN ELT AND O AND C FALL FAR SHORT OF THE NEED. WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT REPORT WILL INCLUDE SOME MODEST RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH IF ACCEPTABLE COULD REALISTICALLY BE IMPLEMENTED, NOT NECESSARILY WITH USG FUNDING, AT LEAST AS A STEP TOWARD MEETING THE PROBLEM.

3. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO HAVE IRANIAN NAMED AS TEAM LEADER, AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR PARAMETERS OF REPORT AND TIMING. WE WOULD THEN SEEK TO OBTAIN AMERICAN TEAM MEMBERS BEST QUALIFIED TO MEET NEEDS AS IRANIANS SEE THEM. WE ARE PREPARED TO FUND TWO AMERICAN TEAM MEMBERS' INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, PER DIEM AND CONSULTANT FEE WHILE IN IRAN, FOR WHAT WE WOULD EXPECT WOULD BE A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE POST'S ADVICE ON THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TWO TOPICS OF THE STUDY:

5. ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING -

A. S, T AND E RECOMMENDATION ASKS FOR A SURVEY OF EXISTING FACILITIES THAT SERVE IRANIAN STUDENTS COMING TO U.S. TO ENTER UNIVERSITIES. ASIDE FROM IRANIAN SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, WHICH WE ASSUME IS EXCLUDED, WHAT OTHER FACILITIES EXIST BESIDES IAS, COMMERCIAL LANGUAGE SCHOOLS AND BRITISH COUNCIL? ASSUME BC WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THIS SURVEY SINCE IT WOULD TAKE CARE OF NEEDS OF IRANIAN STUDENTS GOING TO UK. TO WHAT EXTENT DO IAS AND COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS PRESENTLY MEET THE NEEDS OF IRANIAN STUDENTS HEADING FOR U.S. UNIVERSITIES? IN POST'S OPINION,

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CAN THESE EXISTING FACILITIES BE EXPANDED TO TRAIN MORE STUDENTS? DOES THE POST HAVE AN IDEA OF THE NUMBER OF IRANIAN STUDENTS SEEKING OR REQUIRING ELT IN IRAN PRIOR TO COMING TO THE U.S. TO ENTER UNIVERSITIES? WHAT LEVEL OF STUDENT IS INVOLVED? GRADUATE? UNDERGRADUATE? FROM CENSUS IRANIAN STUDENTS PRESENTLY IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PREDOMINATE. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, AS SEEMS LIKELY, ENGLISH LEVEL WILL BE LOW.

B. CONCERNING ABORTIVE PROPOSAL KAY ASTIN, TEHRAN, ILLINOIS TEAM SUBMITTED AT DEPARTMENT REQUEST, TO CONDUCT STUDY OF IAS, COMMERCIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS AND BRITISH COUNCIL PROGRAM IN IRAN: DEPT DOES NOT ENVISAGE PROPOSED STUDY RECOMMENDED BY S, T AND E REQUIRING DETAIL WHICH THIS EARLIER SURVEY CALLED FOR.

6. COUNSELING AND ORIENTATION -

A. S, T AND E RECOMMENDATION IS MORE SPECIFIC WITH RESPECT TO COUNSELING AND ORIENTATION ALTHOUGH SUGGEST DISTINCTION BE MADE BETWEEN TERMS TO INDICATE: 1) ADVISORY SERVICES FOR STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION AND 2) ORIENTATION PROGRAMMING PRIOR TO STUDENTS' DEPARTURE TO ASSIST IN ADJUSTMENT. LATTER ALTHOUGH IMPORTANT APPARENTLY NOT TOO READILY AVAILABLE.

B. SURVEY OF COUNSELING SERVICES SHOULD ALSO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RELIABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ADVISING STUDENTS WITH RECOGNITION THAT I-20 MILLS ATTRACT "STUDENTS" WHO WILL NEVER PATRONIZE AGENCIES PROVIDING APPROPRIATE STUDENT SERVICES. TEAM COULD INVESTIGATE WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO RELIABLE AGENCIES: E.G., QUALIFICATIONS OF STAFF IN TERMS OF QUALITY AND NUMBERS AVAILABLE TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS; INDIVIDUAL EXPERTISE OF STAFF RE AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN STUDENT ADMISSION; REFERENCE MATERIALS AVAILABLE AND OTHER TOOLS SUCH AS AUDIOVISUAL AIDS; ADEQUATE SPACE TO HANDLE NUMBERS SEEKING ADVICE; ABILITY TO MEET OTHER NEEDS SUCH AS TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS.

C. PRIOR TO INITIATION OF STUDY, HARD DATA SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ABOUT NUMBERS OF STUDENTS WITH SERIOUS INTENT  
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WHO REQUIRE SUCH SERVICES ANNUALLY AND ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FROM STUDENTS' SPONSORSHIP, E.G., WHAT DOES GOI WANT FOR ITS STUDENTS WHICH MAY DIFFER FROM NEEDS OF SELF-SPONSORED STUDENTS?

D. WOULD EXPECT TEAM TO INVESTIGATE NEED FOR AND POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING SERVICES OUTSIDE TEHRAN AND RECOMMEND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO ESTABLISHING FULL-FLEDGED COUNSELING OPERATIONS IN A NUMBER OF CITIES THROUGHOUT IRAN WHICH WOULD BE EXTREMELY COSTLY.

E. TO ENSURE IMPROVEMENT IN A FLOW OF WELL-ADVISED, QUALIFIED STUDENTS TO U.S., SUGGEST TEAM LOOK INTO RELATIONSHIP OF COUNSELING OPERATIONS WITH PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING STUDENT VISAS WITH THE GOAL OF FACILITATING STUDENTS COMING

FOR LEGITIMATE STUDY PURPOSES.

7. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS, SUGGESTIONS, POST CAN  
CONTRIBUTE IN FORMULATING MORE SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR DISCUSSION WITH GOI FOR BOTH ELT AND O AND C COMPONENTS  
OF STUDY. ROBINSON

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